

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 01678 170747Z
ACTION PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECDEF WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 1678

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, US, MORG
SUBJECT: DAO SUPPORT FOR SHIP VISITS

1. AS DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, NUMBER OF SHIP VISITS TO KARACHI AND DAYS IN PORT FOR USN SHIPS HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY THIS YEAR. OUR INITIAL READING IS THAT 10 USN SHIPS WILL HAVE VISITED KARACHI BY MARACH 6 WHILE 16 SHIPS VISITED FOR ALL OF 1976. ALSO, ONE OR MORE SHIPS HAS BEEN IN ANCHORAGE OR ALONGSIDE PIER FOR 40 DAYS SO FAR THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH A TOATAL OF 59 DAYS FOR ALL OF 1976.

2. THIS INCREASE IN TIME IN PORT RAISES A NUMBER OF POLICY QUESTIONS WHICH WE WILL BE ADDRESSING IN SEPARATE MESSAGES. WE BELIEVE THAT DOD SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE AWARE OF ONE SPECIFIC ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEM.

3. IT IS THE MISSION'S POSITION THAT ANYTIME THERE IS A USN SHIP IN KARACHI, A DAO OFFICER, USUALLY ALUSNA, MUST ALSO BE THERE. WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SOMEONE FROM DAO BE PRESENT TO CARRY OUT THE NECESSARY LIAISON AND ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS WITH THE PN AND GOP. WE CANNOT ASK OUR CONSULATE TO ASSUME ALL THESE RESPONSIBILITIES.

4. BECAUSE OF THE INCREASE FREQUENCY OF VISITS, HOWEVER, THE DAO FACES A SEVERE FISCAL PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO DAO, ITS
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BUDGET FOR ALUSNA TRAVEL AND PER DIEM FOR THIS FY WAS APPROXIMATELY \$6190 DOLLARS. AFTER FOUR AND A HALF MONTHS OF THIS FY, ALUSNA IS EXPECTED TO HAVE APPROXIMATELY ONLY \$2000 LEFT FROM THIS FUND. THE QUICK DRAW-DOWN IS MOSTLY DUE TO THE INCREASE IN SHIP VISITS, AND PARTIALLY DUE TO THE INCREASE IN HOTEL RENTS IN KARACHI WITH A CONSEQUENT RISE IN PER DIEM.

5. WE THOUGHT IT BEST TO BRING THIS PROBLEM TO YOUR ATTENTION BEFORE IT BECOMES A CRITICAL ISSUE. THE DILEMMA FACING DEFENSE WOULD SEEM TO BE THAT AS LONG AS THE FREQUENCY OF SHIP VISITS REMAINS AT OR NEAR THE PRESENT PACE, AND CONSIDERING THE EMBASSY'S REQUIREMENT THAT A DAO OFFICER BE PRESENT DURING SHIP VISITS, ADDITIONAL FUNDS MUST BE FOUND TO SUPPORT THE ALUSNA'S TRAVELS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS. IF ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE, THEN LATER IN THE FY WE WILL BE FACED WITH REQUESTS FOR PORT VISITS BY USN SHIPS THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HONOR DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS FOR DAO TRAVEL AND PER DIEM.

6. ANY ARRANGEMENT THAT DEFENSE, DIA AND DAO CAN MAKE TO OVERCOME THIS DIFFICULTY WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE EMBASSY AS LONG AS A DAO OFFICER WILL BE IN KARACHI FOR ALL SHIP VISITS. WE DID WNAT TO HIGHLIGHT THIS PROBLEM AS SOON AS IT WAS BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION, HOWEVER, AND WOULD APPRECIATE DEFENSE LOOKING AT POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

BYROADE

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